

To the Commission:

This is an addendum to my previously filed comments in these proceedings. I am troubled by this proposal for its national security implications. It seems that this proposal, if enacted, would permit access to computers through the power circuit, and as such, would invite a host of harmful virus and worm programs to infect computers through their power circuitry where no firewall or other protections would prevent access. Technology today makes it possible to modify a digital signal to account for alternating current or even power transients that might otherwise interfere with the digital component of the transmission. The broadband over the powerline proposal, in fact, seeks to do just that and is proof of it being technically feasible.

Inasmuch as the national government has computers which are connected through the power grid, a prospective attacker would only have to be within the same area as the victim to infect the computer. Attacks through power lines, especially power lines upgraded to improve broadband digital usage, renders all computers -- including those with sensitive national security data -- open to attack. An attacker would not need to be sophisticated to simply instruct a computer to begin dumping or erasing its data. For these reasons, I would strongly advise against this proposal on national security grounds.

Respectfully submitted:

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